

EXPLORE OUR PAST



RED LODGE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

As early as 1866, gold prospectors discovered rich coal deposits in the Rock Creek Valley. At that time, the area was part of the Crow Indian Reservation and mining wasn't legal. When the land was officially opened to settlement in the 1880s-1890s, prospectors from all over the state hurried to mine the Red Lodge Coalfield, considered "unequaled in the West." Coal mined from here was soon being burned for locomotives, smelters, mills and more from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. It's been said that when the Northern Pacific Railroad's first shipment of coal left Red Lodge on June 17, 1889, the boom began. The boom brought infrastructure as well as jobs to the small town, including electrification, a water works and an organized fire fighting force. By 1910, Red Lodge boasted a population of nearly 5000, half of them immigrants from Scandinavia as well as Eastern and Western Europe. Red Lodge became a town with a great pride in its individual cultures, highlighted by the fact that many immigrants settled into their own, separate neighborhoods.

This walking tour has three components, all of which start from the Carbon County Historical Society and Museum. Take one, two, or all three, depending on your interests and schedule. The Downtown tour, in red, covers five blocks of Broadway, up one side and down the other. It highlights some buildings of historic significance, but you may want to dawdle, observing some of the other buildings that make up the rich fabric of Red Lodge. The Hi Bug tour, in dark blue, takes you up and down two streets full of grand historic residences. The Finn Town tour, in green, covers one of the fascinating immigrant neighborhoods. Along the way, you'll see some buildings highlighted in pale blue on the map. Enjoy learning more about them through their Historic Register signs. Note: Some buildings are better viewed from across the street.



Downtown

1. LABOR TEMPLE/HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM • 224 N. Broadway

Built entirely by area miners, the Labor Temple was dedicated in 1910 for the Red Lodge Miners No. 1771 of the United Mine Workers of America, the first such facility in the state. Total construction cost was \$36,000 (over \$750,000 in 2005). The building has a basement and three stories, including a grand dance hall on the third floor. The ground floor and basement housed a general mercantile store initially operated by the Kaleva (Finnish) Co-operative mercantile company. When it was built, the Labor Temple was the tallest and grandest building in town.  





2. MOUNT MAURICE HOSPITAL • 202 N. Broadway

From 1909-1945, the Mount Maurice Hospital housed up to 50 patients under the care of Dr. S.M. Souder. Souder and his family lived on the first floor of the building, while the nurses lived in small attic rooms on the top floor. The building has served as county offices since 1954.  





3. "NEW" JAIL • 110 N. Broadway

Set back off the street, this brick building was constructed as the new jail in 1903, with prisoners scraping and oiling the exterior masonry. The interior included a sheriff's office, a women's cell, and a series of cages for male prisoners.  



4. CARBON COUNTY COURTHOUSE • 104 N. Broadway



Broadway

An excellent example of a public building of restrained design with classical detailing, this 1899 brick building remains close to its original form, despite later additions on the north and south. Note how the round-headed, second-story windows echo the central arched entrance. Also note the sills and "eyebrows" on the windows and corner pilasters, detailed in projected brick.  

5. PICKET BLDG • 20-22 N. Broadway



This building is distinguished by its three bays, most recognizable in its second story windows: round-headed, double-hung, and round-headed. It was constructed in 1902 for the Red Lodge Picket newspaper, the town's primary source of news from 1892 to 1943. It's interesting to note that the Picket also printed supplemental pages in Finnish during the 1910s, since literate Finns were such a large part of the community.  




6. SPOFFORD/POLLARD HOTEL • 2 N. Broadway



Built in 1893, midway between the railroad depot and Old Town (16th St.), this was the first brick building in town, and its construction signaled the shift of


the commercial district away from Old Town. As it was built before the rest of Broadway, its original entrance was on the south (11th St.) side. It cost \$20,000 to build (nearly \$420,000 in 2005) and had 35 rooms. It was originally named The Spofford after the president of the Rocky Fork Coal Company, but Thomas Pollard purchased and expanded it in 1902. Famous guests have included William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Martha "Calamity Jane" Cannary, and John "Liver-Eatin'" Johnston.  

7. THEATORIUM • 2 E. 11th Street


After World War I, optimism and prosperity reigned in Red Lodge, leading to the 1920 construction of this grand three-story structure. At a cost of \$140,000 (over \$1.5 million in 2005), it had a seating capacity of 1,000 for traveling shows, vaudeville, local productions, and Chautauqua events. The decorative columns, arches and cornices were done in the style of Louis XVI. Marble statues imported from Italy, along with the Gorgonian figures and applied theatrical cartouches of terra cotta on the facade added to the building's elegance. But after the Westside Mine closed in 1924, the building was used only occasionally. In the 1930s it was converted to a distillery, and eventually an auto body shop. Exterior restoration began in the 1990s.  (No Admittance)





8. RED LODGE STATE BANK • 24 S. Broadway

This grand brick building was constructed in 1901. With the bank on the first floor and offices upstairs, it served as the center of the early town's real estate, insurance, and development activity. A 1909 rear addition to the structure included a restaurant. Note the impression of elegance brought about by the sandstone accents, arched transom, and articulated cornice, all highlighted by a 2006 restoration. 



most Finns were literate in their language – and was host to meetings, dances, prize fights, wrestling matches and silent movies. With electric footlights added to the stage in 1907, most of the early traveling theatrical troupes performed in this building. 

12. W.R. HALL BLDG • 119 S. Broadway

This 1900 two-story masonry building retains excellent architectural integrity. The symmetrical front facade uses a combination of cast iron supports and wood to frame the recessed entry. The simple facade is articulated with sandstone banding at the second floor windowsill level and a high relief corbelled brick parapet topped with sandstone coping. The first floor housed a grocery, then a New York clothing outlet, and a string of saloons until Prohibition, when it became a soft drink establishment (while in upstairs rooms, one could be served more traditional beverages).  




13. BLACKBURN BLDG • 11 S. Broadway

As miners flocked to Red Lodge, they were quickly followed by "ladies of the night." In the commercial district, bordellos were located on the upper floors of 7, 9 & 11 S.



9. ROMAN THEATER • 120 S. Broadway

Steve Roman, Red Lodge's "movie man," at one point owned four movie theaters in town. In the family's namesake theater, four of the children accompanied movies on the Wurlitzer, violin, piano, and drums while a fifth served as projectionist, and Mom ran the rooming house upstairs. Originally built in 1917, the facade was remodeled in 1935 in the "Hollywood Moderne" style, including air conditioning, Formica panels, and Art Deco styling. 

10. NIETHAMMER MEAT MARKET • 201 S. Broadway



The Niethammer Meat Market, with a canted, corner entrance, opened in 1916 with the most advanced equipment available at the time: a brightly lit retail shop in front, a huge walk-in refrigerator in the middle portion, and in the back, a kitchen where mincemeat, sausage, wieners and head cheese were made. The basement also held a large smokeroom used to cure bacon, hams and sausage (note the glass block "window" in the sidewalk along 13th St.). When the business sold in 1946, it was reported to be the largest business in Carbon County.  





11. FINNISH OPERA HOUSE • 123 S. Broadway

Finnish immigrants made up a quarter of Red Lodge's population at the turn of the century, and this building served as one of the bustling centers of Finnish social life. The 1897 building housed a library – as



Broadway. A separate stairway served the girls' rooms, which had brick stoves for heating and which could also be used to cook intimate dinners. This is one of the best preserved, rusticated stone, two-story buildings within the commercial district. The name Blackburn still appears on the parapet of the building, constructed in 1905, where Blackburn and Marino operated a mercantile store on the main floor.  


14. IRIS (PARK) THEATER • 7 S. Broadway

Built in 1925, this is one of the newest masonry buildings in the district. It housed first the Iris movie theater and then the Park, whose marquee was added in the 1940s. It remained a vital movie theater from the time of its construction until 1961, when the Roman family bought and closed it. The upper floor was an important meeting place for the Slavonian National Protective Society during its early years.  

15. CARBON COUNTY BANK • 1 N. Broadway

This building exhibits the highest degree of design sophistication and detailing in the commercial district. Note the raised corner entry with Romanesque arches, leaded glass window heads, two primary facades and intricate sandstone and brick detailing. A rear addition built for storage between 1912 and 1927 reflects the original portion in style. A plaque mistakenly notes that Kid Curry and the Sundance Kid were captured after a bank robbery



here. The robbery never took place; rather, members of the Wild Bunch were overheard bragging about their plans to rob the bank, and were chased to north of Lavina, where they were captured by Carbon County Sheriff John Dunn. 

Hi Bug

In 1986, Red Lodge's Hi Bug district was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ninety-one percent of the homes on these blocks were built between 1890 and 1930 by the more affluent English-speaking business and professional people in town. Often, as the owners prospered, they moved their more modest homes elsewhere and built grander ones on their property. The majority of the historic homes are still standing and many have undergone sensitive and detailed restoration. Ornate interiors with grand staircases, beautiful woodwork and marble-faced coal-burning fireplaces were the pride of their owners. Outside, decorative wood and cast-iron fences edged well landscaped lawns. The sophistication of the buildings' designs shows that the residents of this isolated mining town were aware of the architectural trends and styles of the day.

19. CARNEGIE LIBRARY • 8th & Broadway

The Red Lodge library has a typical Carnegie design, including modest detailing, a daylight basement used for a meeting room and an open interior floor plan. It nearly didn't get built, however. As late as 1914, when the local Women's Club applied to the Carnegie Foundation for a grant, the public library was housed in the Savoy Hotel. But their successful application for \$15,000 had to be declined, because the city was unable to furnish a plot of land. Finally, after WWI the Women's Club re-applied and again received the grant monies. In March of 1920, the library moved into this new location. An addition was made in 1980s to accommodate a growing community.



16. TALMAGE HARDWARE • 23 N. Broadway



Built in 1896, this was the second two-story brick building in the new commercial district. An 1895 newspaper article claimed that the alignment of the building had to be adjusted by three feet to be in line with the newly platted townsite (though what that adjustment entailed remains a mystery). The sandstone was quarried from nearby Joliet, and the brick

manufactured near Red Lodge. The building housed a hardware store until the 1990s, when it was remodeled for office space. Note that this block, from the Talmage Hardware building to the Carbon County Bank, is one of the best-preserved historic city blocks in Montana.

17. MASONIC TEMPLE • 101 N. Broadway

Constructed in 1909, the Masonic Temple had a meeting hall on the second floor of this brick building, with the main level housing the Carbon County Mercantile. Later occupants of the main floor included Sawyers Grocery, Piggly Wiggly, Safeway, and a True Value hardware store. The local Star in the West No. 40 Masonic Lodge had been chartered in 1890; in 1931 it consolidated with the Bearcreek lodge.



18. SAVOY HOTEL • 201 N. Broadway



Built in 1907 within one block of the new Northern Pacific Railroad depot, the Savoy Hotel was one of Red Lodge's more elegant commercial buildings, offering travelers an alternative to the Pollard Hotel. The dining room was located in the southeastern portion, lit by large plate glass windows with arched stained glass transoms above. But

by 1913, the Savoy had to be sold for back taxes. The building was then used as a rooming house as well as the site for a post office and the first public library. By the 1920s it had become a funeral home. The library was moved to the new Carnegie Library building when that structure was completed in 1920.

20. NORTHERN PACIFIC RR DEPOT • 11 W. 8th

This Depot, originally including a 2nd story stationmaster's residence, was built in 1889 for the newly completed Rocky Fork of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The first passengers rode in the caboose, with the trip from Billings taking 9 hours. An early traveler described the journey: "The train moved so slowly that a man could shoot game from the window...get out, get his game, and get back into the train without running." Within a few years, passenger service was upgraded and the railway became a vital lifeline, until the tracks were abandoned in 1981.



21. DAVIS/BUDAS/ADAMS HOUSE • 301 N. Hauser

This elegant Queen Anne style home was restored to her original glory in 2007, when an addition including a modern elevator was added to the back. But in 1901, the original home on this lot was a simple cottage. That year, owners R.L. Davis and his wife Josephine sold their cottage, which was then moved to 618 N. Hauser, and started construction on this, grander, home. The elegant building features an angled approach to the L-shaped porch where scrolled console brackets enrich the turned column porch posts. It also offers a fine example of early ornamental glasswork. Note the bay windows on both stories of the south façade as well as the stained-glass window transoms which grace the front windows on both levels.



22. LEHRKIND HOUSE • 612 N. Hauser

Built in 1921 by Paul Lehrkind, manager of the Red Lodge Brewing Company (1910-1919), the sophisticated design of this home is an example of the quality of local carpentry skills and a model in the then-emerging bungalow style. Note the front porch with wide steps and closed balustrade. Above, the detailed vertical stick work over the ends of the rake boards lends symmetry to the design of this classic bungalow.

23. CHAPMAN HOUSE • 715 N. Hauser

While her husband and his partners built the Chapman-Meyer Banking House, plucky, independent Alpha Chapman oversaw the construction of this imposing mansion, an architectural blend of Colonial, Queen

FINN TOWN

When the coal mines opened in the late 1880s, Finnish people became the largest work force in the mines and by the turn of the century made up one-fourth of the population of Red Lodge. The Finns brought with them a cooperative philosophy, including communal boarding house living for the many single miners. In addition to the featured boarding houses, note the more humble saltbox-style houses built as company housing. Many Finn Town homes have received extensive additions or modifications over the years but have retained their historic character. As you walk these quiet streets, imagine the bustle of thousands of miners, as many as 60 to a house, coming and going at all hours.

26. LITTLEFIELD HOUSE • 111 N. Platt

This two-story clapboard home with its four gables embellished by fish-scale shingles and multi-paned windows offered a warm welcome to its boarders in the first part of the last century. Its striking porch supported by columns along with a first-floor bay window made it a distinctive residence. The spacious front room served as a dining room, and was always freshly laid with linens and table service by Harriet Littlefield, who operated the boarding house. Between about 1915 and 1919, the home was used as a funeral parlor, until Mrs. Littlefield converted the building into apartments and had a small house built for herself on back of the lot.



27. TUURI BOARDING HOUSE • 117 S. Platt

In 1897, Jacob Tuuri and Elias Hill built this elegant Queen Anne cottage as a boarding house for miners who were under contract to live in company housing. Eventually Jacob bought out Elias' interest and raised his family here. The building was carefully restored in 2003, rescuing it from near collapse.

28. HERRANEN HOUSE • 224 S. Platt

This 1906, two-and-a-half story Queen Anne home displays a prominent front gable sheathed in scalloped shingles and elaborate gingerbread. A run-around porch originally covered the western and southern facades of the house as well as the open front porch, supported with columns and an open



Anne and Grecian styles. Note the rambling veranda extending around the front and south facades as well as the paired columns with urn finials and turned balustrades supporting the porch. The two-story bay windows, fish-scale shingles, scroll brackets and dentil moldings all contribute to the rich ornamentation of this residence and reflect the wealth of its owners. Adding to the beauty of the home are three oval windows with richly molded frames and intricately leaded beveled glass. Built in 1902 at a cost of \$6500 (over \$147,000 in 2005) the mansion stands today as a symbol of success in early Red Lodge.



24. NUTTING HOUSE • 301 N. Word



William Nutting, first president of the Red Lodge State Bank (#8) built this elegant Queen Anne style cottage in 1900, originally described as "an ornament to the city." The hipped roof, gingerbread decoration at the gabled peak, and fish-scale shingles add to the Victorian charm of this home. Nutting later built several rental homes in Hi Bug. Walking north on Word Avenue, keep an eye out for his other one-and-a-half story homes, distinguishable by the fish-scale shingles in the front gables and open front porches.

25. CROONQUIST HOUSE • 521 N. Word

This stately Craftsman style home, built in 1922 from local lodgepole pine and river rock, was the home of Alfred and Senia Croonquist. It is modeled after the buildings at Camp Senia, a dude ranch/fishing camp south of Red Lodge created by the adventurous couple in 1919 (and also on the Historic Register). The rock wall edging and terracing as well as the wooden steps leading up from the street are original to the home, and stand as a tribute to the Finnish craftsmen who built the house.



balustrade. The ornamentation and a picket fence with its arched entryway have enticed travelers and boarders for most of the last century. The home was predominantly a boarding house early on. In the late 1980s, new owners made it a B&B. It is now a private residence.

29. KALLIO BOARDING HOUSE & SAUNA • 408 S. Haggin

From 1915 to 1960, the Kallio family operated this humble boarding house and sauna in the Puskaperä ("wooded") part of Finn Town. This is a typical Finn Town house: a one-story wood frame with square gable roof and a sauna out back. The Finnish saunas became popular with residents from all nationalities, but when they closed, none were ever opened in their place.

30. SUOMELA BOARDING HOUSE • 19 N. Haggin


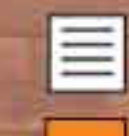


This three-story, wood frame gable-roof house, built around 1900, features decorative shingles and drop siding. The second and third stories housed sleeping rooms while the kitchen, dining and sitting rooms were on the first floor.

31. WARILA BOARDING HOUSE & SAUNA • 20 N. Haggin

This elegant little home with gingerbread fretwork and fishscale shingles is an excellent example of Victorian era patternbook architecture. The Warila family lived on the first floor, while the basement and second stories housed up to 15 boarders. This was one of the first privately owned homes on the block, since the coal companies owned most of the homes in Finn Town. A sauna building was added around 1906. The bath cost 15 cents if the proprietor furnished a towel; 10 cents if not.



LEGEND

-  PUBLIC BUILDING (CHECK FOR HOURS)
-  PRIVATE RESIDENCE (PHOTOS ONLY)
-  HISTORIC REGISTER SIGN
-  FEATURED SITES
-  OTHER REGISTERED SITES